

25 January 2023

Dear

### **ATISN 17004 – Long Covid support**

Thank you for your request to the Welsh Government for information received on 29 December 2022 which will be dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) (FOIA). You have requested the following:

*Following the Welsh Government announcement of a further £3m in funding for Long Covid support:*

*1. The amount of money pledged by the Welsh government specifically for Long Covid care in each of 2020, 2021 and 2022. (By 'Long Covid care' I mean any money pledged specifically for treatment of, support for, or research into, Long Covid)*

*2. A detailed breakdown of each piece of funding over £5,000 pledged by the Welsh government for long covid care. This breakdown should include:*

*a-the amount of funding,*

*b-who or what body or organisation the funding was given to*

*c- the nature of the funding,*

*d-a short description of the purpose of the funding, etc.*

*e-Provided in electronic table format with a series of rows for each piece of funding and columns for various pieces of information.*

### **Our Response**

**1. Money allocated by the Welsh government specifically for Long Covid care in each of 2020, 2021 and 2022.** (As a point of accuracy, the announcement you referred to above regarding a further £3m was in fact £5m. The information provided below, and in Table 1, outlines this in more detail).

2020/2021 – £120K

2021/2022 - £5m

2022/2023 - £5m

### **2. Research Funding**

Health and Care Research Wales is a networked organisation, supported by Welsh Government, which brings together a wide range of partners across Wales including NHS Wales, local authorities, universities, research institutions, third sector and voluntary organisations to support and deliver a range of studies across a broad range of disease areas.

Health and Care Research Wales has an annual budget of £47m of which £16m is distributed to NHS organisations to support research taking place in NHS organisations allowing them to host and deliver a range of research studies. Since 2020, it has supported

these Long Covid research studies. (It is not possible to provide a breakdown on the funding to support each study as the NHS research staff work across several studies simultaneously). In addition, Health and Care Research Wales buy into UK wide research funding schemes who will be the primary funder for the studies noted below:-

- P-HOSP, Post-hospitalisation COVID-19 study: a national consortium to understand and improve long-term health outcomes;
- LISTEN, an evaluation of the effectiveness of a new self-management support programme, co-designed by people living with Long COVID;
- REGAIN, looks at the benefits of rehabilitation exercise and psychological support for patients still suffering with symptoms;
- LOCOMOTION, will identify best practice in providing services, ensuring people are supported quickly and receive the right treatments from the right healthcare professionals – in their own home, through their GP or at specialist Long COVID clinics;
- HEAL-COVID, will assess several different treatments that may be of benefit in reducing or preventing the complications that patients with COVID-19 are reporting after their acute illness;
- Coronavirus Immunological Analysis (CIA)- aims to find out about the response of the immune system to COVID-19 to enable improvements in both treatments and diagnostic tests for the disease;
- EXPLAIN – will undertake Hyperpolarised Xenon Magnetic Resonance PuLmonary Imaging in PATieNts with Long-COVID to understand why some individuals with long-COVID struggle with breathlessness on exertion (when active) and have a reduced ability to exercise.

In addition, Health and Care Research Wales have made a recent award within its PHD health studentship scheme of £66k to fund a study Investigating interactions between physiological, cognitive, and behavioural variables in people experiencing Long COVID.

Health and Care funds an Evidence Centre to provide evidence synthesis activity and undertake rapid research projects. Long COVID has been an active part of their work programme. [Wales COVID-19 Evidence Centre | Health Care Research Wales \(healthandcareresearchwales.org\)](https://healthandcareresearchwales.org)

### 3. Breakdown of funding over £5,000

<b>Table 1: Allocated Funding (over £5000) to Support Long COVID Recovery April 2020 – March 2023.</b>				
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>2020/2021 Allocation</b>	<b>2021/2022 Allocation</b>	<b>2022/2023 Allocation</b>	<b>Nature and Purpose of Funding</b>
Aneurin Bevan University Health Board	-	£942,000	£887,000	This was short term funding to support Health Boards to establish Adferiad (Recovery) Services i.e. community integrated multi- professional services and referral pathways to specialist care to support people with long COVID.
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board	-	£1,129,000	£1,043,000	
Cardiff and Vale University Health Board	-	£665,000	£749,000	
Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board	-	£768,000	£667,000	
Hywel Dda University Health Board	-	£640,000	£578,000	
Powys Teaching Health Board	-	£221,000	£198,000	
Swansea Bay University Health Board	-	£635,000	£578,000	
Cardiff & Vale university Health Board	£120,000	£80,000	-	Development, maintenance, and further development of the digital guideline.
NHS Collaborative via Public Health Wales NHS Trust	-	-	£300,000	Development of: - The Long COVID Recovery APP Continuation of: - The Digital Guideline for Clinicians  Ongoing costs and further development and maintenance of both.
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>£120,000</b>	<b>£5,080,000</b>	<b>£5,000,000</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£10,200,000</b>			

#### Next steps

If you are dissatisfied with the Welsh Government's handling of your request, you can ask for an internal review within 40 working days of the date of this response. Requests for an internal review should be addressed to the Welsh Government's Freedom of Information Officer at:

Information Rights Unit,  
Welsh Government,  
Cathays Park,  
Cardiff,  
CF10 3NQ  
or Email: [Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales](mailto:Freedom.ofinformation@gov.wales)

Please remember to quote the ATISN reference number above.

You also have the right to complain to the Information Commissioner. The Information Commissioner can be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office,  
Wycliffe House,  
Water Lane,  
Wilmslow,  
Cheshire,  
SK9 5AF.

However, please note that the Commissioner will not normally investigate a complaint until it has been through our own internal review process.

Yours sincerely